

Border Eagle

Vol. 53, No. 36

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas

September 9, 2005

Air Force Aid Society establishes nationwide relief fund

By Capt.

Gideon McClure

Air Education and Training Command public affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas--In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Air Force Aid Society has established a nationwide relief fund to help those Air Force families affected by the hurricane.

Donations to the AFAS Hurricane Relief Fund will be accepted directly from individuals, corporations and organizations, both military and civilian. Monetary contributions may be made by check or credit card.

Credit card donations may be made by calling 1-703-607-3073 or 1-800-769-8951 or by a secure online credit card form located on the Air Force Aid Society web site: <http://www.afas.org>. Checks should be made out to the Air Force Aid Society and reference the hur-

ricane relief fund.

"The Air Force Aid Society's goal is to be there when you need us," said retired Lt. Gen. John D. Hopper, Jr., Air Force Aid Society chief executive officer and former vice commander of Air Education and Training Command. "Due to the overwhelming number of requests from individuals who want to help, establishing the relief fund will allow us to track contributions and disbursements donated for this purpose. At all times it is important to look out for our fellow Airmen, and at times like this it is even more crucial."

In addition to receiving donations, the AFAS is also ready to help individuals who have been affected by the hurricane. If you need assistance, please visit any Air Force Aid Society office or contact the website or phone number above.

CFC also has many agencies that help with hurricane relief.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi A. Owolabi

Members of the Del Rio Border Patrol special operations depart Aug. 26 from the Laughlin flightline in a U.S. Navy P-3 Orion to participate in the Hurricane Katrina rescue operations.

CFC donations, organizations help during hurricane recovery phase

Many people are asking what they can do to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Officials estimate the need to help people will go on for months. Many charitable organizations have rushed to help; most are worthy of support. In a recent statement, President Bush identified two national organizations, the American Red Cross (<http://www.redcross.org>) and the Salvation Army (<http://www.salvationarmyusa.org>), as two that are at the forefront of disaster relief. Both are participating charities in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) this year.

In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has developed a list (<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=18473>) of agencies that are involved. Many of these organi-

zations are also national CFC participating charities. New to the effort is the Bush - Clinton Katrina Fund, started by former presidents Bush and Clinton (<http://bushclintonkatrinafund.com>).

Since recovery from Hurricane Katrina will be a long process, Federal employees may want to give through the CFC. The official CFC solicitation period begins Sept. 19 here. Federal employees will find many charitable organizations that provide disaster relief in the CFC brochures that will be distributed within the workplace.

Sadly, there already are scammers out there setting up bogus websites claiming to collect money for survivors. They don't; they only enrich the sites' creators. Before donating to any charity, do your homework and make sure it's legitimate.

Base participates in local donation drive

Compiled from staff reports

Base members contributed to a joint base - Del Rio "Fill the Truck" drive to collect needed goods to take to the American Red Cross in San Antonio. All goods will be distributed to Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

Mrs. Charlene Wolters, one of the base drive organizers, said she was pleased to be able to help out. "We all are overwhelmed by the needs these people have. This community may be small in numbers, but its generosity is enormous. We're pleased to be able to help in any way we can."

Base members dropped donations at the Base Exchange, the Commissary, Club XL and the Chapel earlier

this week. Today, volunteers at the chapel's fellowship hall are boxing items for delivery to the truck at Plaza del Sol Mall.

Jane Pratt, local Red Cross chapter manager, said it's not too late to donate. The Red Cross will be at the mall tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to take donations. They are accepting the following items:

- Bottled water
- Toothpaste/toothbrush, shampoo and conditioner
- Batteries
- Disposable diapers, baby wipes
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toilet paper
- Tissues and
- Canned goods (with tab tops).

Laughlin, Del Rio full of successes



Commander's Corner

By Mark Hewitt
*47th Flying Training Wing
Maintenance Directorate deputy
director*

I have often marveled at the many successes enjoyed at Laughlin Air Force Base.

As my family and I first drove into town during August 1995, there were large signs everywhere announcing, "Del Rio Loves Laughlin"--an unusual and unexpected sight for career military people who have moved countless times.

Now some 10 years later, working at Laughlin and living in Del Rio, there is no doubt "Del Rio Loves Laughlin," but what I think is more noteworthy is that "Laughlin Loves Del Rio."

Beginning with the mayor to the president of the Military Affairs Association to numerous civic and business leaders, their unqualified support of the Air Force, Laughlin's employees and our student pilot population has been clearly evident and continuous, and I believe one would be hard pressed to find another comparable base-community relationship in the country. For military and civilian leaders, the special relationship enjoyed between Laughlin and the citizens of Del Rio is educational as well as a true-case study of reciprocity and "service before self."

Laughlin leaders and Del Rio work very hard to foster and maintain this special bond which is noted repeatedly by former wing commanders and visiting dignitaries.

One of the many contributors to this enviable reputation lies in the local success story

between Laughlin and the Del Rio High School.

Known locally as the "Grow Your Own Program," this unique initiative is quietly celebrating its 16th year. It was in 1989 when a vocational education and Air Force partnership was formed to take highly motivated young adults and expose them to the excitement rigors and rewards of aviation. Over these 16 years, the GYOP has been one of the best partnership stories helping to further shape and define the links between Laughlin and its parent city.

The GYOP partnering model has been replicated as a benchmark program for other communities such as St. Phillips College in San Antonio.

In Texas, Career and Technology programs are dedicated to prepare young people to manage the dual roles of family member and wage earner, as well as enable students to gain entry-level employment in high-skill, high-wage jobs and/or enable them to continue their education.

Del Rio High School and Laughlin leaders saw the potential of such a program. As envisioned and designed, the GYOP would be particularly well suited to meet the goals of the Texas Education Agency as high school students would be provided basic aircraft maintenance skills which would serve them well to compete for aviation jobs. For those GYOP graduates who were subsequently employed at Laughlin as civil service employees, they acquired well paying federal jobs with benefits that exceeded the median income typically found in and around border towns.

The GYOP has been an unequivocal success for the Air Force--so successful it has been subject to national media and has received numerous

awards for its rare partnering with a federal agency. The GYOP has also been an unequalled success for Del Rio. It has taken primarily minority young men and women, some potentially at-risk or disadvantaged (some alumni are the only family wage earner), and has given them a sense of purpose and pride, and instilled a strong sense of responsibility and integrity so necessary in today's aviation environment. They became and are good, hard working, dependable, and responsible residents and neighbors.

In those 16 years, Laughlin and the Del Rio High School have produced some 294 GYOP graduates where the vast majority finished high school and sought employment at Laughlin as civil service employees working on the flight line.

In fact, more than 230 graduates had their "first job" at Laughlin as full-time employees, and current GYOP alumni contribute about \$4.8 million annually to the local economy. GYOP graduates are employed primarily at the 47th Flying Training Wing Maintenance Directorate in positions from aircraft attendant to supervisor, and since 1989 they have easily launched and recovered over a million aircraft. They are key contributors to maintaining one of the largest aircraft fleets in the Air Force and have been essential to the success of our flying training mission. A bona fide win-win model which has proven its worth to the Air Force, Laughlin, and the Del Rio community, creative initiatives like the GYOP are crucial for establishing and maintaining great community relations.

Yes, Del Rio loves Laughlin and Laughlin loves Del Rio, and we are very enthusiastic and proud of our Grow Your Own graduates--past, present and future.

Border Eagle

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Deadlines

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Submissions can be e-mailed to: **olufemi.owolabi@laughlin.af.mil** or **sheila.johnston@laughlin.af.mil**.

Advertising

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Actionline

Col. Tod Wolters
47th Flying Training
Wing commander



Call 298-5351 or email
actionline@laughlin.af.mil

One way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels is the Commander's Actionline.

Before you call in or e-mail an Actionline, please try to work out the problem through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

When calling or e-mailing the Actionline, please keep messages brief and remember to include your name and phone number so you are assured of a timely personal reply. Contact information is also useful when additional information is needed to pursue your inquiry.

We will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

Below are some useful telephone numbers that may be helpful when working your issue with a base agency.

AAFES	298-3176
Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Clinic	298-6311
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
EEO	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
MEO	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

“Through trust and teamwork, train expeditionary airpower experts to fight and win America’s wars.”

– 47th Flying
Training Wing
mission statement

Wingman concept: Air Force taking care of its own

By Gen. John G. Jumper
Former Chief of Staff

Over the past year, I have stressed the importance of Airmen looking out for one another, especially in light of our alarmingly high suicide rate in 2004. I asked that we all make the extra effort to look for troubling signs in our co-workers--that we be great wingmen.

Our rates have gone down, but each loss that we take is one too many. The efforts of some great wingmen have saved the lives of some of our comrades in arms, but now I urge each of you to continue to provide mutual support.

In my 39-year career, I have always been proud of how our Air Force takes care of its own. It sets us apart from those in the private sector and it is something I will deeply miss in retirement. This attitude is firmly rooted in the profession of arms and is part of our common Airman culture. Our inaugural Wingman

Day occurred after four months in which 24 Airmen took their own lives. Discussing the stressors we experience, re-emphasizing available supportive services, and talking about what it takes to be a great wingman provided an opportunity for us to join together and examine how we can strengthen our common Airman culture at every level.

Why has focusing on our wingman responsibilities contributed to lowering our suicide rates? I believe part of the answer lies in our core value of “Service Before Self.” The foundation of this value is respect--respect for our Air Force, for ourselves, and for our fellow Airmen. As we give and gain respect, we develop our sense of what it means to be Airmen and create a community to support those who need our help. Airmen support and protect their fellow Airmen. Airmen help Airmen in need. Airmen work with Airmen to deliver precision results wherever and whenever needed.

Being a great wingman means recognizing when other Airmen are in distress and having the courage to care. I am asking each of you to make being a wingman a habit and not just a slogan. Wingman Day isn't nearly enough. While providing a good opportunity to reflect on how we take care of our own, simply scheduling one day a year is just a beginning. We must each make a conscious choice each and every day, ensuring that we are thinking, preparing, and acting in accord with our core values and serving as wingmen to our fellow Airmen, whether they are active, reserve, guardsman, or civilian. We should ask ourselves daily, “Who are my wingmen, how are they doing, and what have I done to support them today?” That's where “Service Before Self” begins--with you and your teammates. That's what makes the United States Air Force the greatest Air and Space force in the world.

Finding ways to make work fun is half the battle

By Maj. Todd Cheney
39th Logistics Readiness Squadron

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey-- One of the phrases I always remember from my officer training days is, “If you aren't having fun, you aren't doing it right.”

It didn't mean you should ignore your duties and responsibilities, it simply meant you should find ways to enjoy what you are doing. If you don't enjoy what you are doing, you should take inventory of the possible causes and adjust to eliminate as many as possible.

There are three things that make my duties and responsibilities fun for me: understanding the mission and how I have an impact, owning my own area of responsibility and enjoying the camaraderie of my fellow Airmen.

Understanding our mission and how each Airman and civilian assigned has an impact is essential to our success and to each

individual's job satisfaction.

The Airman checking in supplies has to do his or her job to ensure we get the right parts to the right place on time. The personnel specialist ensures the right people are available by managing tour extensions, performance reports, promotions and much more. The chaplain ensures our people are spiritually fit so they are well and able to perform their duties in support of the mission.

Every person has a link to the mission. If you haven't figured out how you link up, ask your boss. It's a lot more satisfying to do your duties when you know exactly how you make an impact.

The next item is ownership of your own area of responsibility. This can be somewhat of a complicated issue since it involves trust from supervisors, competence and attitude; however, today I will try to keep it simple.

Each individual should have ownership of some part of the

mission through their duties and responsibilities. Supervisors should give their subordinates a charge with set parameters and let them go to work. Don't interfere unless they stray outside the parameters or they are looking for assistance.

This gives the subordinates ownership in the task at hand. They decide how they are going to get it done and they do it.

The last, but most important, piece that ensures I'm having fun accomplishing my duties and responsibilities is the people I work with.

In my mind, having fun is a key ingredient to our mission success. Sure, there will be times that don't feel fun--getting chewed out by your boss, having to work some overtime to catch up, or accomplishing the tasks you dislike the most--but overall you should strive to find reasons and ways to enjoy what you are doing. If you aren't having fun, you are just not doing it right.

Newslines

Border Bazaar Craft Fair

The Officers Spouses Club is hosting a free Border Bazaar Craft Fair Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All base member are invited.

Office closures

The finance customer service counter will close today at 2:50 p.m. for commander's call. For details, call 298-5215.

The military personnel flight will close today at 1 p.m. for an official function.

For emergencies only, call 703-0265.

VIN etching scheduled

A vehicle identification number etching is scheduled Thursday from 8:30 a.m to 4 p.m. at the Auto Hobby Shop.

Information sheets can be picked up at the Family Support Center, Building 246.

For details, call 298-5620.

Check LES for pay data

The finance customer service requests Laughlin members review the pay-data portion in Leave and Earning Statements (LES) to ensure they have the correct zip code 78843 or 78840 listed for BAH.

Call 298-5215 immediately if the data reflects a different zip code.

Deployment stats

Total deployed:	54
Returning in 30 days:	45
Deploying in 30 days:	0

Mission capable rate (As of Tuesday)

T-1, 86.3%	T-6, 92.7%
T-38C, 76.4%	

Alcohol-related incidents

January to September 2004 17

Jan. 1 to September 3, 2005 19

Days since last incident 6

Base COMSEC receives outstanding rating

**By Tech. Sgt. Edward A. App and
Airman 1st Class Mikeal Bean
47th Communications Squadron**

The 47th Communications Squadron received an outstanding rating during a biennial Air Education and Training Command Information Assurance Assessment Program inspection Aug. 16 to 25.

The biennial assessment was conducted by AETC subject-matter experts and is the Information Assurance equivalent of an operational readiness inspection.

During the nine-day inspection, Laughlin personnel were assessed on their ability to protect personal and government information. The inspection team determined the health of the IA program to include computer se-

curity, emission security, Internet/Web security, IA awareness, communications security (COMSEC), telephone switch and network operations.

During the inspection, Laughlin's successes were in the COMSEC and IA training programs. The COMSEC posture was noted as Outstanding. COMSEC was inspected with no findings.

Laughlin's IA training program, managed by Frederick Ervin, was recognized as one of the best in AETC due to a 100 percent completion of training.

The IAAP team also acknowledged several 47th CS personnel and sections for their outstanding contributions. Pedro Bernal, wing IA office chief, received praise for his extraordinary management of the base

IA office. Tech. Sgt. James Bissell was recognized for his outstanding web management. The Network Control Center earned recognition for an exceptional anti-virus program, and telephone operations for their excellent telephone-system security.

"Laughlin computer users and the various unit program managers are to be congratulated on an outstanding job," Mr. Bernal said. "The success of our programs has always been attributed to the hard work and dedication of base personnel. We would like to thank each and every one of you.

"Team XL as a whole should be very proud of the success of the evaluation. Keep up the good work to keep Laughlin's communication and information systems secure and maintain our spot at the top of AETC," he said.

Hotline links deployed troops, hurricane-struck families

**By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service**

WASHINGTON--With thousands of troops from the hurricane-stricken Gulf Coast deployed thousands of miles from home and worried about their families, a program operated by the National Guard Bureau is providing a vital communication link and assurance that families are being taken care of.

Army Col. Anthony Baker Sr., the Guard's chief of family programs, said that calls to the program's support network "have ticked up greatly" since Hurricane Katrina hit Mississippi and Louisiana, displacing thousands of families.

Unlike typical requests, generally from families of deployed servicemembers, the biggest increase in contacts is from troops overseas. "They're calling to ask about their families," Colonel Baker said.

Both Mississippi and Louisiana have about 3,000 National Guardsmen deployed supporting operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, officials said. However, this figure does not take into account active-duty troops or Reserve forces from the Gulf region.

Colonel Baker said he is expecting calls from families to increase as the afflicted states begin airing public service announcements publicizing the

family assistance centers and their contact information.

The Guard's Family Program Web site also is encouraging military families displaced by Hurricane Katrina to report their status and whereabouts to the hotline.

To accommodate the increased traffic to the toll-free number, Colonel Baker said, the Guard Bureau is working to have a new phone bank operational at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va.

Full-time staff and volunteers will monitor calls to the toll-free Family Program hotline and connect them directly to the appropriate family assistance center able to help, Colonel Baker said.

While center staff members may not have all the information needed, they have access to those who can help, he said. These range from the American Red Cross, which tracks the names of displaced people being sheltered in the hurricane region, to emergency relief organizations that provide a variety of services to military aid programs.

Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, described these centers as "a single-stop shopping source" for families needing information or assistance, not only during the deployment, but also before and after.

These centers offer reassurance to deployed troops who cannot be home to take care of their families themselves, General Blum said. It tells servicemembers that, "No. 1, (their families are) being accounted for and, No. 2, that they're being properly taken care of."

The hurricane knocked several family centers in the Gulf region out of service when they were needed most. As of Aug. 31, 80 percent of Mississippi's centers and 20 percent of Louisiana's were down because of power outages and communication gaps, General Blum said.

Currently, seven Mississippi centers are operational, and seven of Louisiana's nine centers are up and running, Colonel Baker reported. Efforts are under way to restore operations at the family assistance center at Jackson Barracks, the historic home of the Louisiana National Guard that sits on the banks of the Mississippi River in downtown New Orleans, Colonel Baker said.

Colonel Baker said that no program, however responsive, can fully take away the stress families are likely to feel as they face the hurricane's aftermath during a deployment.

But knowing there is somewhere to turn if they need assistance "helps put them at ease," he said. "As long as they know that, they will rest a little easier."

5X11



Capt. Kent Bolster
KC-135
McConnell AFB, Kan.



GRADUATION

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 05-14



Capt. Clinton Gharis
F-15E
Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C.



Capt. Eric Hamilton
C-5
Dover AFB, Del.



Capt. Jeremy Jones
C-17
McChord AFB, Wash.



Capt. Michael-David Komorous, C-17
McChord AFB, Wash.



Capt. Todd Pearson
F-15C
Tyndall AFB, Fla.



Capt. Travis Piatt
C-17
McChord AFB, Wash.



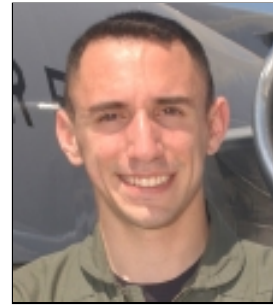
1st Lt. Allan Henley
RC-135
Offutt AFB, Neb.



1st Lt. Ryan Miller
T-38
Laughlin AFB



1st Lt. Zachary Tews
KC-135
Grand Forks AFB, N.D.



1st Lt. Raymond Tierney
KC-135
Grand Forks AFB, N.D.



1st Lt. Daniel Walters
KC-10
Travis AFB, Calif.



2nd Lt. Ryan Becker
F-16 (ANG)
Fargo ANGB, N.D.



2nd Lt. Jeffrey Cannet
HC-130 (ANG)
Gabreski ANGB, N.Y.



2nd Lt. Thomas Chapman
T-6
Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. Michael Chmielewski, F-16
Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Kevin Cline
KC-135 (ANG)
McConnell AFB, Kan.



2nd Lt. Jason Depew
B-1B
Dyess AFB



2nd Lt. Christopher Francis
C-130 (ANG)
Berry Field ANGB, Tenn.



2nd Lt. Brian Huston
C-130
Little Rock AFB, Ark.



2nd Lt. Jonathan Hutchison
KC-135
McGhee Tyson ANGB, Tenn.



2nd Lt. Ryan Quinn
C-17
McChord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Andrew Stolee
F-15C
Tyndall AFB, Fla.



2nd Lt. Ryan Wells
KC-135
McConnell AFB, Kan.

ARC offers
CPR course

The **Del Rio branch of the American Red Cross** will hold a CPR-instructor course today through Sunday at 6 p.m. at 127 Foster Dr. For additional information, call 775-8626.

1X2
Animal
Hose

1X3
Cinema

1X3
VFW

2X5
Military
Media

Laughlin commissary offers
savings in case-lot sale

By **Bonnie Powell**
*Defense Commissary
Agency News Service*

The World’s biggest case lot sale will offer “world-class” savings at nearly 270 commissaries this month. The Laughlin commissary case-lot sale is Sept. 22 to 24.

“Most commissaries are participating,” said Patrick B. Nixon, chief executive officer and acting director for the Defense Commissary Agency, “and customers can save up to 50 percent or more off regular prices during case lot sales.”

The sales typically feature items by the case such as canned goods, beverages, cleaning or laundry products, and in some cases, fresh chicken, pork or beef.

“The sale here will feature great prices on laundry detergents, can vegetables, and paper products, along with a variety of meat and produce

items,” said Store Director Anthony S. Longo.

The worldwide sale is held two times per year, in May and September. “The September sale has been held since 2001 and proved so popular we expanded it to May,” said Nixon. “Our customers really look forward to case lot sales - whether they live just around the block or an hour away. And with the holidays coming up and kids going back to school, it’s a perfect time for customers to use their commissary benefit to stock up.”

The May worldwide sale set a new record - over \$11.4 million in sales and 1.4 million cases of products sold at all stores combined.

In addition to the sale at the Commissary here, shoppers can find out about sales at other commissaries nearby by visiting <http://www.commissaries.com>.

4X5.25
SF Lion Club

Lackland supports Hurricane Katrina evacuation



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Borosch

SAN ANTONIO--Airmen from various basic military training squadrons at nearby Lackland Air Force Base take a break from setting up temporary quarters for Hurricane Katrina evacuees here. The Airmen had been preparing to depart for Keesler AFB, Miss., for advanced training.

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE--Airmen here played a critical role in San Antonio's hurricane evacuation operation.

Over a 55-hour period, Lackland received 9,788 evacuees aboard 89 aircraft. Working in partnership with San Antonio first responders, Airmen helped unload passengers, provide medical assistance and prepare evacuees for transport to shelters and hospitals around the city.

Additionally, Lackland provided more than 250 recent graduates from basic military training to help set up two shelters. Normally, these graduates are entitled to a town pass for their first opportunity to go off base since entering basic training. But they turned down the pass to support the evacuation effort.

Hundreds of volunteers from various career fields including civil engineers, transportation, security forces and communications are working in area shelters or assisting operations in San Antonio.

Missions and teams also are departing Lackland to provide support and services in the Gulf Coast region.

Wilford Hall Medical Center currently has seven critical-care air transport teams rotating in and out of New Orleans to help move critical patients.

A 60-person contingency aeromedical

staging facility team, also from WHMC, departed Sept. 2 to provide medical care and support for patients being evacuated from the area. The team is expected to be in New Orleans for at least 30 days.

The 433rd Airlift Wing, an Air Force Reserve Command unit here, which operates the C-5 Galaxy, has flown more than 20 aeromedical evacuation missions to the region, moving more than 1,200 patients back to San Antonio for treatment.

"We did an incredible job, sometimes (unloading) and processing hundreds of evacuees from eight to 10 aircraft at the same time," said Col. Mary Kay Hertog, 37th Training Wing commander. "The support we provided was unprecedented, and I couldn't be prouder of all the support being provided by the Lackland community."

"For the last several days our military and civilian communities pulled together to help the citizens of New Orleans who are coming to us literally with just the clothes on their backs," she said. "I'd like to personally thank the military members — active duty, Reserve, National Guard and our civilians — who have worked around the clock to give these Americans a temporary home and a new start."



Gulf Coast evacuees sort through donated items in San Antonio. The evacuees were inprocessed, given a medical checkup, fed and provided donated clothing and other personal needs.

AETC holds forum on Group II housing privatization

Potential developers plan visits to seven Air Education, Training Command bases

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE--The Air Force’s largest single housing privatization project drew strong interest from potential developers and investors during an industry and financial forum Aug. 23-25 in New York City.

The forum provided information on Air Education and Training Command’s Group II Housing Privatization Project to nearly 250 real estate, property management and financial professionals.

“We are extremely pleased with the interest shown in the Group II project,” said Col. Leonard Patrick, AETC civil engineer.

AETC’s Group II Housing Privatization project includes approximately 4,000 housing units at seven bases: Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.; Columbus AFB and Keesler AFB, Miss.; Vance AFB, Okla.; and Goodfellow AFB, Laughlin AFB and Randolph AFB, Texas.

The housing privatization program was initiated by the Department of Defense in 1996 to speed up the

revitalization of family housing. The Air Force estimates nearly 40,000 of its existing military family housing units are considered inadequate by today’s standards. Housing officials say it would cost more than \$7 billion and take over 12 years to revitalize substandard housing through traditional military housing programs.

“While the Air Force has worked hard to maintain and revitalize our aging family housing, the quality of many of our units is just not where it should be,” Colonel Patrick said. “This project is going to enable AETC to get there much faster and at a much lower cost.”

The command civil engineer told forum attendees the need to provide Air Force families with access to quality, affordable housing is an important element in military readiness.

“Abraham Maslow’s well-known ‘hierarchy of needs’ includes shelter as one of our most important needs,” Colonel Patrick said. “We can’t afford to have our deployed warfighters worrying about whether

or not the plumbing and air conditioning are working at home.”

Unlike traditional military construction projects or government acquisition programs, housing privatization is a real estate transaction.

While the government may loan the developer a certain portion of the money required for the project, the developer must also arrange for other necessary loans from financial institutions to fund the development. For example, while development costs for AETC’s Group II project could be close to \$500 million, the maximum amount the government can directly loan is capped at about \$200 million.

“For every dollar the Air Force commits, in housing and privatization, the private sector will invest much more,” Colonel Patrick said.

Having received the program overview at the industry and financial forums, prospective developers are now participating in individual site visits to each installation. Site

visits planned for Columbus, Keesler and Maxwell have been postponed because of Hurricane Katrina and will be scheduled at a later date. Randolph was visited Aug. 31. The current Group II schedule is:

- Vance, Sept. 14
- Goodfellow, Sept. 20
- Laughlin, Sept. 21

This is the second grouped housing privatization project for the Air Force and AETC. Source selection for AETC’s Group I Housing Privatization Project is underway with award of the four-installation lease anticipated later this year. The Group I project includes nearly 3,000 housing units at Altus AFB, Okla.; Luke AFB, Ariz.; Sheppard AFB, Texas; and Tyndall AFB, Fla.

For additional information about the Group II Housing Privatization project go to visit the Jones Lang LaSalle Privatization Support Contractor website at www.jllpsc.com.

(Courtesy Air Education and Training Command News Service)



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason Tudor

Caring compassion...

LOUIS ARMSTRONG NEW ORLEANS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, La.--Senior Airman Portia Payton talks to hurricane evacuee Betty Porter here Sept. 4. Airman Payton sat with Ms. Porter for almost four hours while talking, feeding and offering her water before her aeromedical evacuation flight to Lake Charles, La. Airman Payton is a medical technician from the 59th Medical Wing, Lackland Air Force Base.

Mail service to Keesler suspended

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE--The United States Postal Service has announced a suspension of express mail service, and standard and periodicals mail acceptance – from any source – to several ZIP Codes in the gulf coast region struck by Hurricane Katrina, including Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

The emergency actions have been taken as a result of “severe facility damage, evacuations and other issues resulting from the hurricane,” according to USPS officials.

“We request that official agencies do not put any mail intended for Keesler Air Force Base into the mail system at this time,” said Senior Master Sgt. Salvador Orozpe, command official mail and electronic information manager. “All mail is being stopped at processing distribution centers, because there’s no infrastructure to support the mail flow. We appreciate the cooperation of all organizations to help alleviate unnecessary mail back ups.”

The following three-digit ZIP Code ranges are affected: 369, 393, 394, 395, 396, 700, 701 and 704.

The USPS is working on plans to address the handling of standard and periodicals mail already in the mailstream and addressed for delivery to the eight suspended ZIP Codes, according to the service’s website.

For more information and service updates visit the USPS website at: www.usps.com. Click on “Service Updates, Hurricane Katrina.”



Senior Airman Benjamin Burnes
*47th Security Forces Squadron
Personnel Security Specialist*

Hometown: St. Paul, Minn.

Family: Wife, Annalee and Son, Benji

Time at Laughlin: 3 years and 4 months

Time in service: 3 years and 8 months

Greatest accomplishments: Making staff sergeant first time testing

Hobbies: Playing with my son, riding my motorcycle and playing computer games

Bad habit: Biting my nails

Favorite movies: Anything that makes me laugh

If you could spend one hour with any person, who would it be and why? If I could spend one hour with any person, I would spend one hour with Jesus. I can't imagine a better person to talk to.

“Senior Airman Benjamin Burnes is a personnel security specialist who coordinates all security clearance requests and paperwork for Laughlin. He is the hardest working Airman I have ever worked with. He is always ready for any challenge and is going to be a great non-commissioned officer.”

--Staff Sgt.
Joseph Joslin,
47th Security Forces
Squadron



Photo by Airman 1st Class Olufemi A. Owolabi



Photo by Master Sgt. Jack Braden

Animals in the aftermath...

LOUIS ARMSTRONG NEW ORLEANS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, La.--Staff Sgt. Kevin Sanada examines Pork Chop after his arrival here Tuesday. Pork Chop was airlifted here with his owner before being evacuated to their final destination.

Labor Day concludes critical days of summer

The 101 Critical Days of Summer ended this week, as always, on Labor Day.

The intense safety campaign runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day each year to draw attention to increased safety awareness, risk management and common sense.

The program began in the early 1980's to counter the traditional increase in Air Force mishaps and fatalities that occur during the summer months.

“There were no fatalities or significant incidents at Laughlin Air Force Base during this period,” said Paul Blair, 47th Flying Training Wing ground safety chief.

The Air Force as a whole was not as fortunate. Last year there were 32 fatalities during the 101 critical days, according to Mr. Blair. This year there were 29 with no off-duty fatalities during the long Labor Day weekend.

According to officials at the Air Force Safety Center at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico, most of these deaths could have been prevented.

Tragically, most loss of life occurs in private motor vehicles with motor-

cycles accounting for about one-third of the total motor vehicle mishaps. Driving while impaired, speeding and fatigue were the leading contributing factors in fatal motor vehicle incidents.

The facts and figures show that nearly 70 percent of fatalities are in the 18- to 25-year-old age group.

Safety center officials also point out that needless loss of life has a profound impact on the Air Force mission. Each member is responsible for personal safety. Risk management and common sense should be a vital part of all activities.

Four principles of risk management are:

--Integrate risk management into all phases of an operation.

--Accept no unnecessary risks.

--Make risk decisions at proper level.

--Accept risk if benefits outweigh cost.

“We’ve been extremely fortunate here at Laughlin,” Mr. Blair said. “The commanders have done an excellent job of ensuring their people incorporate risk management and safety both on the job and off.”

(Compiled from staff reports)

CLEP testing saves money, time, headaches

By Senior Airman Christian Michael
1st Fighter Wing public affairs

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va.--There is a way for Airmen to earn their degrees using knowledge gained from work and personal study, while at the same time saving money and shortening time spent in classes.

The College Level Examination Program and the Excelsior examination program are available to servicemembers in pursuit of a college degree.

These programs save students time, money and encompass a large variety of courses.

They are in high demand because they can eliminate general course credits. While military education does cover some general education requirements, it does not cover or is not accredited in class like English composition, mathematics, natural science, social science, history and humanities.

However, CLEP general exams cover most first-year level college work, according to Rozzie Lovett, the education services officer at the Langley Education Center here. CLEP subject exams usually cover a wide range and variety of subjects and fields which can be applied toward higher-level requirements. The examination program, along with Excelsior exams, also cover subjects that are more specific to de-

gree programs, though they usually do not exceed second-year college level exams.

Except for specialized exams, such as speech, which requires a taped impromptu speech, most exams are uniform in nature.

"The CLEP general examinations are timed and multiple choice; the subject exams are timed also, but are not multiple choice" Mrs. Lovett said. "Test results are usually received at the education center three to six weeks after the test date."

There are so many benefits to taking CLEP exams, she said. It saves students and the government money; students don't have to pay for school time, books, gas or living costs that can build up while attending school.

Passed exams have saved the government more than \$300,000 in the past year in class costs and other fees, Mrs. Lovett said. That does not include how much money students have saved paying for the courses.

Tech. Sgt. Edward Perry, the 1st Fighter Wing command chief assistant here, has completed four exams within the past year toward his speech, humanities, ethics and English courses. Currently working toward a bachelor's degree in construction technology, he finds the monetary benefits the best part of the program.

"It doesn't cost a dime for military members," he said, "I can get college credit toward a degree with information I

already know."

CLEP and Excelsior exams are free for active-duty military members, free or a minimal cost to reservists and guardsmen, and are relatively inexpensive for dependents and retirees. On top of the low cost and convenience, there are great benefits for the CLEP exams that keep students coming back.

"Students can take as many CLEPs as they want in any period of time," said Mrs. Lovett. "If they fail one, however, they cannot retake the exact same test for another six months."

Because of Sergeant Perry's schedule, his biggest benefit is the time saved by taking test.

"It's a great benefit for those of us in the military who have our time spent in so many other directions, because we can work toward our degree while still doing our duty," he said.

He also pointed out the value of receiving credit for knowledge gained and practiced elsewhere.

"Why would I want to take a class in a subject I'm already well-versed in?" Sergeant Perry said. "Because of these tests, I spend less time in class. This frees me up for other classes I need."

According to Sergeant Perry, CLEP subject study books at the base library can prepare students to take the test.

For more information on CLEP, call the base education office at 298-5520.



Photograph illustration by Airman 1st Class Austin Knox

Feel like you're wasting time or money on subjects you already understand? Try taking a CLEP test to expedite your college degree.

Laughlin members can log on to: https://home.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/support/mss/DPE/test_date_request.htm to request a CLEP test date. The base education center's office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Photo by Senior Airman Stacia Zachary

POPE AIR FORCE BASE, N.C.--Senior Airman Elizabeth Larson packs her bags with her desert camouflage uniform and other necessities prior to deploying to support the war on terrorism. She is a 43rd Comptroller Squadron financial technician here.

Fresh eyes focused on deployment

By Senior Airman Stacia Zachary
43rd Airlift Wing public affairs

POPE AIR FORCE BASE, N.C.--It has been said by old hats in the Air Force that the service is getting younger by the day. While this may not actually be the case, there is a group of Airmen who are new to both the Air Force and deployments. But they are ready to gain experience in their career fields and in the mission abroad aiding in the war on terrorism.

For Senior Airman Elizabeth Larson, a 43rd Comptroller Squadron finance technician here, the experience her deployment to Southwest Asia offers is exactly that — another sector of the Air Force she has yet to familiarize herself with and another part of her job she has yet to learn.

“I didn’t join the Air Force for any one reason; but to experience all (aspects) of the Air Force,” said Airman Larson, who is 32 months into her military career. “Although I will still be working in finance (while deployed), I will be working in much different conditions and with different (operating procedures). I will also handle foreign currency as a cashier.”

As for the deployment itself, Airman Larson can best

be described as enthusiastic about her upcoming tour. When the office first received word of a deployments tasking with four slots open, the 43rd CPTS had no trouble filling one of them.

“I wanted to go,” she said. “They asked for volunteers and I was all over it.”

Airman Larson’s excitement over the prospect of deploying for the first time does not diminish her concern over the timing of the deployment.

“Being gone for the holidays has to be the hardest part of getting ready to leave,” she said. “I am going to miss all the big family holidays.”

Since her father had been in the service, Airman Larson was an Army brat born in Michigan but raised in North Carolina. Her first assignment was at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.--only six hours from her home and family. Recently, the financier had a permanent change in duty station here, just miles from her parent’s doorstep.

After leaving the nest to join the Air Force, Airman Larson has remained within driving distance of her family. However, along with her deployment, her mother also will deal with the enlistment of both of her siblings--her sister will cross into the blue while her brother is signing up with the Army.

“It’s going to be really dif-

ficult on my mother because for the first time she will not have any of her children around,” she said. “That’s the most difficult part of deploying--always wondering how my mom is handling our absence and worrying about her.”

These worries are echoed by others also set to deploy during the holidays. Although the concern for those left behind is usually a common theme among Airmen, the base has set up deployment procedures to ensure that those concerns do not multiply while preparing to leave for the desert.

D e p l o y m e n t outprocessing routines help Airmen pack up without too much hassle.

“The base outlets have been very good about getting me prepared,” Airman Larson said. “Going through the checklists made it so much easier than I expected, and the legal office sent me an e-mail almost immediately after being officially tasked telling me what I needed to do there.”

With Airman Larson all prepared to go and final goodbyes yet to be said, she puts her obligation to deploy into perspective.

“It will be hard to deploy and be gone from my family during the holidays, but it’s important to me to help out and do my part,” she said.

Couple weds outside Keesler shelter

KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss.--Five days after Hurricane Katrina dramatically changed many lives in the Gulf Coast region, a couple here began a new chapter in their own lives.

Tech. Sgt. Daniel McMullen of the 335th Training Squadron and his girlfriend of three years, LaVerne, exchanged wedding vows

Saturday outside one of the base’s seven shelters used to house people here since the hurricane struck.

Guests of the bride and groom, all who shared a shelter with the couple, dressed for the occasion in the most fashionable way. The groomsmen wore reflective safety belts while the bridesmaids wore reflective safety vests.

Sergeant McMullen wore his battle dress uniform accented by a makeshift bow tie made out of yellow caution tape, while LaVerne appeared wearing a yellow dress.

Sergeant McMullen said the wedding was made even more special because the people he had been with through the hurricane were part of this special day.

“I’ve shared a lot with these folks over the last eight days,” Sergeant McMullen said. “We all survived the storm together. This couldn’t have gone any better.”

Mrs. McMullen said the wedding was originally planned for Sept. 8, but she and Sergeant McMullen decided having it a few days early would not make a difference.

“We had the marriage license, and we could have went to a justice of the peace, but we both figured why wait? Let’s do it right now,” she said.

“This was a memorable and special day for both of us,” Sergeant McMullen said. “This will be a year we will never forget.”

(Courtesy Air Education and Training Command News Service)

Free breakfast offered

The Hispanic Heritage Committee in conjunction with AFGE Local 1749 invite base members for their annual free breakfastfrom 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Sept. 16 at the Fiesta Center Patio Area. Food fun and music will be available.

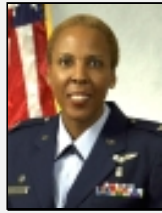


**The Air Force
rewards
good ideas
with money.
Check out the
IDEA
Program data
system at
[https://ideas.
randolph.
af.mil](https://ideas.randolph.af.mil) or call
Tech. Sgt.
Thomas
Mayo at
298-4355.**

**Laughlin
Family
Support
Center**

Monday to
Friday
8:30 a.m.
to
4:30 p.m.
298-5620

4X11



What's up Doc?

By Col. Laura Torres-Reyes
47th Medical Group commander

Question: I went to the pharmacy to get a refill on my prescription, but I was told they couldn't fill it until I made an appointment to see my doctor. I thought you guys had limited staffing.

Why do I need to make an appointment just to get a simple refill for a medicine I've been on for the past five years?

Answer: I am sorry you had to experience the inconvenience of traveling to the pharmacy and not receiving the medication you expected.

In your particular case, you did not require a refill,

but a renewal of your prescription. The difference: Your medication container has a certain number of refills. When the number of refills of refills on your prescription bottle is zero, you need a renewal of the prescription.

If you see a number of refills remaining, it means you don't need an appointment, but can simply call into our automated refill line to let us know you need a refill, then come in to the pharmacy to pick up your medication.

In your case, you already received all of your refills, and the label stated that you had zero refills

remaining.

If you have zero refills remaining, it means that your provider needs to see you personally to assess your current condition prior to renewing your prescription.

The standard of care for the treatment of chronic conditions is to have an evaluation by a doctor at least once a year. Therefore, even if you have refills left on an existing prescription, the prescription will expire at one year from the date originally prescribed.

The good news is that by being periodically evaluated by your physician, you can discuss any issues or concerns you have.

For questions about our pharmacy procedures contact our Pharmacist at 298-6453.

Thank you for your question!

You may contact Colonel Torres-Reyes at laura.torres-reyes@laughlin.af.mil if you have a What's Up Doc? question.